

Creative Holiday Shopping

CREATIVE HOLIDAY SHOPPING

By Melissa Phegley

As winter's chill heralds holiday cheer and you prepare for the season of giving this year, the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs urges you to get creative!

The arts are flourishing throughout the 19 neighborhoods of Boston — home to over 300 cultural institutions. Classes, workshops, tickets, memberships, merchandise and donations make heartwarming, one-of-a-kind gifts that also give back to Boston's cultural community. Creative shopping is a great way to give and a great way to give back.

Whatever rings your bell — theater, music, dance, visual arts, crafts, history, literary arts — you'll find something for everyone in this unique guide to holiday shopping. This guide is, however, merely a sampling of ideas and we encourage you to support *your* favorite organization and share the arts with someone you love. Boston NOW, your "neighbor in the know", hopes to inspire you with a few suggestions:

GIVE A CREATIVE GIFT

Artists Group of Charlestown 20 artists & artisans will sell hand-made quilts, children's clothing, animal pottery, folk rag dolls, cigar box handbags, scarves, beaded jewelry, miniature paintings, ornaments & more at the Holiday Boutique, December 13th & 14th! The StoveFactory Gallery, 523 Medford Street, Charlestown. 617-241-0130; www.artistsgroupcharlestown.homestead.com

Boston Photo Collaborative Open darkrooms, weekend workshops, teen programs, senior classes & digital photography classes are offered in beginner to advanced levels. 617-524-7729; bostonphoto.org; \$45-\$275

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First Night Boston A First Night button gets you free admission to 200 exhibits and performances in 40 locations all over downtown Boston. Buttons are available now on the website & at Shaw's/Star Market, Store 24 and other locations. 617-542-1399; www.firstnight.org; \$15

Forest Hills Educational Trust Garden of Memories: A Guide to Historic Forest Hills by Susan Wilson gives the history of the art on display and the important people buried at Forest Hills Cemetery, bringing to life the history of the past 150 years. 617-524-0128; www.foresthillstrust.org; \$14.95

Loring-Greenough House Saturdays & Sundays in December, 10AM-4PM until the last tree is sold, volunteers will offer beautiful Christmas trees on the lawn of the Loring-Greenough House. Christmas wreaths will also be offered 12/6 & 12/13. 12 South Street, Jamaica Plain; 617-524-3158 Various Prices

Mary Baker Eddy Library Books, puzzles, and games including the Mapparium Journal, about the Mary Baker Eddy Library's 3-story stained glass globe that depicts the world as it was in 1934 \$9.95 Mary Baker Eddy Library Shop, 200 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston or at 1-800-488-8009. www.marybakereddylibrary.org

North Bennet Street School Certificates for courses in Bookbinding, Jewelry Making and more are available. 617-227-0155 x102; www.nbss.org; Various Prices

Make a Tax-Deductable Donation in the Name of a Friend or Relative

Act Roxbury Consortium 617-541-3900, x222 www.actroxbury.org

Arts/Boston 617-262-8632 www.artsboston.org

The Art Connection 617-338.7668 www.art2life.org

Artists Resource Center 617-369-3635 www.smfa.edu/arc

Arts & Business Council 617-570-8346 www.artsandbusinesscouncil.org

Boston Dance Alliance 617-482-4588 www.bostondancealliance.org

Cultural Access Consortium 617-357-1864 www.culturalaccess.org

Greater Boston Cultural Network 617-742-1836.

Massachusetts Advocates for the Arts, Sciences and Humanities 617-338-4395

Nonprofit Finance Fund 617-423-1892 www.nonprofitfinancefund.org

Stage Source 617-720-6066 www.stagesource.org

Urban Arts Institute 617-879-7971

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts 617-350-7600 www.vlma.org

VSA Arts of Massachusetts 617-350-7713 www.vsamass.org

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Paul Revere House Paul Revere Playset – features a fully articulated figure of Paul Revere with horse and stand, a British soldier with musket, lanterns, 20" church tower, 3 early American flags & 32-page illustrated booklet. 617-523-2338; www.paulreverehouse.org; \$14

Snappy Dance "overneath"- a collaboration between dance & photography by Wendy Richmond, visual artist, columnist and lecturer at Harvard University, & Martha Mason, Artistic Director of Snappy Dance Theater. www.snappydance.com; \$30

GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC & THEATRE

Boston Baroque Choose from Grammy-nominated CDs: Handel's Messiah; Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610; Bach's Mass in B Minor. 617-484-9200; \$15-27

Boston Gay Men's Chorus Check out their new CD, Razzle Dazzle: The Broadway Hits of Kander and Ebb, featuring songs from Broadway shows such as Chicago; Cabaret; New York, New York & more. 617-424-8900; www.bgmc.org; \$16

Boston Lyric Opera BLO Italian Season Cap, stone-colored featuring the Italian Season logo in front, BLO logo in back. \$15; Italian Season posters featuring all illustrations by Florencio Yllana. \$5; Gift certificates for upcoming performances are also available at various prices. 617-542-6772; www.blo.org

Boston Modern Orchestra Project Gift certificates are available at 617-363-0396; www.bmop.org; \$15/30/50/100

Boston Symphony Orchestra Gift certificates are available at 617-266-1200; www.bso.org; Various Amounts

Boston Theatre Works Purchase a one time walk-on role in a BTW production. See someone you love play one of Santa's elves in a December production, or let the suspense build all winter long by purchasing the role of a drive through window attendant in a May BTW production. Gift includes a card explaining your unusual gift, a ½ hour rehearsal with the cast, one onstage performance and a 5X7 photo to commemorate an evening you'll never forget. 617-728-4321; \$50

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Christmas Revels Give a 4-CD box set filled with traditional folk songs, carols, dance tunes and children's games. CDs featured: The Christmas Revels; Wassail! Wassail!; Christmas Day in the Morning; Sing We Now of Christmas. www.revels.org; \$48

Handel and Haydn Society Choose from two holiday CDs: Handel's "Messiah" & "Unto us a Child is Born". Also available, the Grammy-award winner "Lamentations and Praises". 617-266-3605; www.handelandhaydn.org; \$18-30

GIVE CULTURAL MEMBERSHIPS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

ACT Roxbury Membership supports the Roxbury Film Festival, Roxbury Open Studios, courses, art tours and staged readings. Roxbury Literary Annual, Roxbury Film Festival Posters and t-shirts can be purchased on line at www.actroxbury.org; 617-541-3900 x233; \$25-\$55

Boston by Foot Membership gives free admission to all regular walking tours, half-price to special tours and invitations to continuing education events for docents and members. Tours include the Heart of the Freedom Trail, Beacon Hill, Victorian Back Bay, the South End and more. 617-367-2345; www.bostonbyfoot.com; \$25

Boston Ballet When you subscribe to Boston Ballet, you get more than guaranteed great entertainment. You receive generous benefits not available to the general public. 617-695-6955; www.bostonballet.org

Boston Photo Collaborative Memberships are offered by the Boston Photo Collaborative with proceeds that go directly to youth and senior photo programs. Enjoy great discounts at the best photo labs and stores! www.bostonphoto.org; 617-524-7729; \$50-\$1,000

Children's Museum Membership is a gift that will be enjoyed throughout the whole year and includes free admission for 12 months and free admission to over 200 science museums worldwide. 617-426-6500 X 354; membership@BostonKids.org; www.bostonkids.org; \$45-75

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Ford Hall Forum Membership fosters civic dialogue through the presentation of free public lectures. Programs and newsletter mailings, reserved seats at programs, invitations to events and 10% off books sold at the programs. www.fordhallforum.neu.edu/membership; \$35

Fourth Wall Productions Subscriptions to Boston's newest theatre company can be purchased at 781-424-8592; www.fourthwallproductions.net; \$30

Museum of Afro-American History Membership includes free admission to exhibitions, openings & special events. 617-442-8014; www.afroammuseum.org; \$25-50

Mobius Friends of Mobius receive free discounts on Mobius events for the entire year and much more. 617-542-7416; www.mobius.org; \$40-60

National Center of Afro-American Artists Membership includes free admission to exhibitions and openings, special events. The museum, housed in a neo-Gothic mansion of Roxbury puddingstone and Nova Scotia sandstone, has changing exhibitions. 617-442-8014; www.ncaaa.org; \$35 and up

New England Jazz Alliance Membership for jazz lovers includes a one-year subscription to 'Quarter Notes' magazine and a membership card for discounts at Scullers Jazz Club and Stereo Jack's record shop. 617-567-6354. www.nejazz.org; \$30

Paul Revere House Membership includes free admission to the Paul Revere House, Pierce-Hichborn House and special events throughout the year, as well as the quarterly Revere House Gazette newsletter and a discount in the Museum Shop. (617) 523-2338; www.paulreverehouse.org; \$20/35/50

Society of Arts and Crafts Membership to the oldest non-profit craft organization in the country supports the Excellence in Crafts Award, craft tours, the Craft Guide for central New England and promotes the work of over 400 craft artists working in clay, wood, glass, fiber and metal. 617-266-1810; www.societyofcrafts.org; \$45 and up